

Thursday May 2 1996

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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,542

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Chelsea's battle to keep Hoddle

## Saint Glenn for England

Sport pages 14 and 16

Derek Malcolm on a new cult movie hit

## Things to do... with Andy Garcia

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OnLine

## Java: the language of the future

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Rifkind in new feud as ministers are braced for humiliation at the polls

# Major: 'I won't buckle'

### Leadership rivals line up to back PM

Michael White  
Political Editor

**J**OHN MAJOR yesterday gave the strongest indication yet that he will not buckle under pressure to embrace the Eurosceptic agenda, or resign the Tory leadership, if today's local elections bring the expected humiliation for his party.

As potential challengers like John Redwood denied any plots or threats, the Prime Minister declared defiantly: "I am a Conservative because I believe in Conservatism and I take a middle of the road view on European matters." He said he would "not be pushed from one edge to another edge of the debate."

Mr Major's determination was echoed by possible successors like Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, Ian Lang and Michael Portillo, as they tried to turn attention to what the Prime Minister called Labour's "hidden agenda of higher taxes."

Last year's challenger, Mr Redwood, even issued a statement saying the leadership issue had been settled then.

The "bloodless coup" scenario being touted by a few dissidents would see Mr Major gracefully stepping down and Mr Heseltine becoming interim leader unopposed — to fight and probably lose the general election, leaving for later the left-right fight for control of the party.

Such a business resolution of the Tories' dire position in the opinion polls is all but inconceivable. But ministerial frustration at what loyalists see as a media-driven distraction on the eve of today's local elections was not helped by feuding over the beef crisis.

While backbenchers demanded tougher retaliatory

mandated tougher retaliatory action over the European Union's beef ban, no serious attempt was being made to deny reports that the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, had written to Mr Major protesting at the lack of clear leadership over beef, and last week's U-turn over the retaliation options.

Far from Mr Rifkind being let down, some MPs blame the Foreign Office for sabre-rattling in the first place. In a speech last night Mr Rifkind aligned himself with Mr Major by rejecting both "a federal supranational state" and the romantic notion that Britain could quit the EU.

Mr Major expressed what is the Cabinet majority's view in a lunch-time speech to regional newspaper editors. "Our national interest requires us to be in Europe," he said, warning against "simplistic headlines" or negative reporting when complex issues needed to be properly explained.

"As Prime Minister, I must speak for the national interest as I see it — and I will — whatever noises off may be."

Mr Major protested that the worst reporting was that which said there was little difference between the parties. "It is true Labour try to ape Tory sentiments because they know that's what appeals to the heart of the nation. But the policy differences are very real."

Mr Lang, the Trade Secretary, protested at what he called "a whirlwind of speculation and fantasy" about a leadership challenge.

More candid colleagues admit that Tory MPs must take much of the blame.

To add to the mood of disarray in their ranks, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, rejected EU requests to put Europe Day posters in Scotland's schools, while Peter Thurnham, the MP who recently resigned the Tory whip, urged voters to back the Liberal Democrats today if they want to guarantee a European referendum and electoral reform.

The maverick MP does not plan to join the party himself, he wrote in his local Bolton paper. But he urged Sir James Goldsmith not to spend £20 million campaigning for a referendum, but to organise a nationwide postal ballot at half the cost.



'Our interests require us to be in Europe,' John Major told regional newspaper editors yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

# Schoolgirls accused of killing after funfair fight

Owen Bowcott

**T**WO teenage girls appeared in Kettering youth court yesterday charged with the manslaughter of Louise Allen, aged 13, who died after trying to stop a fight on Monday evening.

The two schoolgirls, aged 12 and 13, from Corby, in Northamptonshire, were remanded into secure local authority care. The girls, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, each spoke only once to confirm they understood what was happening.

Both sat with their parents and were dressed in sweat-shirts, track suit bottoms and training shoes.

Louise was found unconscious on a grass verge near a funfair in Corby, following a fight among teenagers. A policeman and a passerby attempted to give her first aid and she was rushed to Kettering general hospital.

A post-mortem examination revealed she suffered severe head and upper body injuries. Her parents, John and Ellen Allen, were at her bedside throughout Tuesday until they gave doctors permission for the life support system to be turned off. The inquest into her death is due to open tomorrow.

Detectives trying to establish exactly what happened on the evening of the attack were yesterday still making house to house inquiries and interviewing witnesses.

Schoolfriends, neighbours and teachers praised Louise's high spirits and readiness to help others. Squinting on their rucksacks or snuffling back their tears, Louise's friends gathered yesterday lunchtime on the spot where she was attacked.

Huddled in a circle around the small mound of flowers and teddy bears left by well-wishers, they popped bubble



Louise Allen, 13, who died after trying to stop a fight

### Austin



Clarke sent off sceptics, page 3; Nogg attacked, page 4; Leader comment, page 6

### Standing by their man — loyalty pledges for Prime Minister

"I have no doubt that John Major will lead the Conservative Party at the election or that he will win it. I have spoken (to journalists) with no inflection or hesitation or doubt. I didn't look sheepish. I looked you in the eye."

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister

"Speculation about the leadership is completely misplaced. This matter was settled comprehensively last year."

Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary

"The leadership was decided last summer. We are going to go on as a united party and we are going to fight the election on our record on the real issues."

Ian Lang, Trade Secretary

"As far as I am concerned the Conservative Party settled the issue of the leadership last summer. I have made it very clear I have no intention of challenging John Major as Prime Minister and leader."

John Redwood, failed leadership candidate

# Pets win £32.5m prize for insurance firm's founders

Tony May

**W**HEN Patsy Bloom's pet dog, Jamie, fell sick in 1976 she could not find an insurance company willing to help with the vet's bills so she borrowed £250 and set up her own insurance plan.

Yesterday she and partner David Simpson, who also put up £250, sold the Pet Plan company to Cornhill Insurance for £32.5 million.

They will each receive £16 million, a theoretical return on their investment of 6.4 million per cent.

Ms Bloom, aged 55, was

named as Business Woman of the Year in 1993, but ironically in 1976 she felt that she had to find a man when she was looking for a partner in order to please the insurance industry.

"You could not get anywhere in the insurance industry as a woman then. It would be childish to say it is still the same today although insurance companies are not the most forward thinking in terms of women's interests," she said.

When she tried to interest insurance companies in the idea some people just laughed.

So, she said: "I rushed

round to my animal-mad friends and said 'would you buy pet insurance for a tenner?' and they did."

In the first year Pet Plan insured 1,300 animals but now has 400,000 policyholders on its books who pay a total of £40 million a year in premiums. The partners founded not just a company but a new branch of the insurance industry.

"I know that people will look at us and see we have ended up with heaps of money but it has involved hours of sheer struggle. I have no regrets but I have no doubt I married the business."

"People have asked me

"How do you feel about the loss of the baby? But I say it's like chucking out an unruly teenager," said Ms Bloom.

She said they had decided to sell the company after they realised it needed more resources than a private company could raise. They had ruled out floating Pet Plan on the stock market.

Instead, Cornhill Insurance will provide the underwriting backing for Pet Plan's range of insurance policies covering pets and horses, and Ms Bloom and Mr Simpson are staying on.

Mr Simpson will become

chief executive while Ms Bloom will remain a director with particular responsibility for marketing and promotion.

The firm's staff of 200 — some of whom in the past worked without pay to keep the business growing — will stay in Brentford, west London, as employees of Cornhill.

But Ms Bloom would not advise others to follow her example today. "Go for venture capital, that's my serious advice."

"It was not available then and it is a different ball game now. You could not start up a company like that with private money."



Patsy Bloom, who borrowed £250 to start up company

### Inside

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Prague Writers' Festival 1996  
The Viola Theatre, May 9-11

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Under the festival's theme of "Ancient Evenings", writers including R.S. Thomas from Wales, Sylva Fischerova of the Czech Republic, and Jim Barnes from the USA will be presenting their work at the festival. There visitors can enjoy a rare opportunity to listen to, and meet, these renowned international authors.

For more details call: 44 (0) 171 7134133

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Sketch

Heavyweights not a pretty picture



Simon Hoggart

TORY Central Office these days looks like a modern art gallery. In the hall there's the famous portrait of John Major, the one where he's standing in front of a bookcase wearing wrinkled slacks...

Didn't the beef ban prove that Europe was against us? Mr Heseltine said that the first country to ban British beef was the United States, seven years ago...

The implication was that Europe had been far kinder to our beef than our own former colonies. Indeed, he seemed to be saying, it had been positively helpful.

Yes, of course, and no doubt Princess Diana will be on hand to watch the first mass incineration.

Finally — after wasting precious seconds discussing the ostensible topic of the press conference, too — we reached the only interesting subject. Was Mr Heseltine hoping to seize Mr Major's job?

Hezza assumed his plotting awoke. "The record is totally straight. But journalists don't listen to answers the first time, or the second time, or the 335th time. They examine every full stop, every comma, every blink."

"I have no doubt that John Major will lead the Conservative Party in the next election or that he will win it, and I and my colleagues will be there to help him."

Left, right and centre, the 'it's my party' theme has been given a new lease of life

Michael White and Seumas Milne hunt for clues

AS Mohammed al Fayed, owner of Harrod's, entered the political fray yesterday with plans for an independent think tank, Arthur Scargill opened a new phase in the guerrilla war which small parties are threatening to wage against the Labour-Conservative hegemony at the coming general election.

When the miners' leader's Socialist Labour Party (SLP) was finally given its formal May Day launch, he hinted that he would stand against Alan Howard at the next election if Labour impose the Tory defector on a constituency such as the Yorkshire seat of Wentworth.

Given the unpopularity of the Tories under John Major and unease on the left about Tony Blair's leadership, the surprise is that David v. Goliath politics has taken on a re-emerge after Margaret Thatcher's charismatic grip on British politics was replaced by pragmatic muddle.

merger with the Liberals. But in the 1990s electoral reform talk has returned on both left and right, with disaffected MPs and activists predicting splits and realignment in both major parties after the next election.

Mr Scargill has long been a supporter of FR as a vital element and is anti-European. Like Sir James Goldsmith, from whom he does not expect financial support.

Mr al Fayed — who, like Sir James, made his first fortune in the grocery trade — is similarly free of immediate financial constraints if he decides to go down the same path. But colleagues stated categorically yesterday that the Egyptian-born entrepreneur is not, contrary to reports, planning to start a formal political party as such, even though he is passionately interested in democratic politics and reform of British institutions.



Miners' leader Arthur Scargill at the formal launch yesterday of the Socialist Labour Party

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Scargill makes his pitch

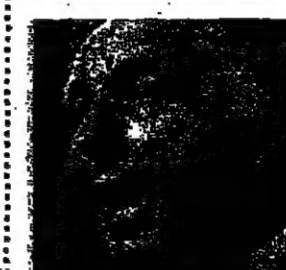
Play fantasy politics

Reform Party



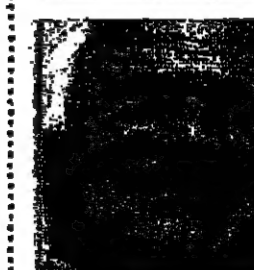
- Banker Mohamed al-Fayed Harrod's £23 million Bill of Reform

Socialist Labour Party



- Banker Arthur Scargill Finance Members' subscriptions and donations Manifesto Common ownership; full employment; 4-day week; ban on non-essential overtime and retirement at 55; restoration of union rights; abolition of monarchy, public schools and House of Lords; EU withdrawal.

Referendum Party



- Banker Sir James Goldsmith Finance £20 million of his own money Manifesto Simple. A referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, or at least, on Euro-federalism, followed by a renegotiation of UK membership of the EU, to be ratified by another referendum. Then the party wide up. Star signings: Professor Sir Alan Walters, et, that's it.

How to start your own political party. The description of a candidate on a ballot paper is restricted to 7 words — which may include the name of a political party. However as there is no official recognition or definition of what constitutes a political party here is the simple guide to setting one up.

First night

Literary genius as silly old buffer

Michael Billington

Tolstoy Aldwych

THE American dramatist, James Goldman, specialises in cutting marital feuds down to size. In The Lion in Winter, he turned the quarrel between Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine into bitchy Broadway comedy. Now, in the distant Tolstoy, he takes the laconic feud between the great novelist and his wife, Sonya, and makes it seem like an episode from a Russian soap.

merrily when one of his daughters quotes the Shakespeare he detested. I suspect Goldman's aim is to do justice to Sonya, who devoted herself to Tolstoy during his great periods of creativity. But there is no mention of the fact that she hated sex and used it only as a means of gaining power.

Worse still are the attempts to add a little compensatory theatrical colour. At one point there is an unpersuasive flashback to happier times when the Tolstoy dance to a waltz he wrote when young. Even more risible is the moment when the dying Tolstoy has a vision of a gypsy dancer whose demure nodding suggests she has scarily ventured further east than Tunbridge Wells.

Jack Hofsiss's production, with its unexpected glimpses of characters moving about in the wings, is barely competent. It has a little chance to show Tolstoy's contradictions or to suggest that he died, in Isaiah Berlin's words, "oppressed by his sense of perpetual moral error". And although Gemma Jones deploys her formidable technique to convey Sonya's mixture of dementia and devotion, she does not have the lines to work with.

Violence calls at clergy doorstep

James Meikle Community Affairs Editor

THE Lord is my shepherd, says Psalm 23, but Church of England vicars want better protection — such as door chains, burglar alarms and security lights.

Clergy and their families are being threatened, abused and burgled by doorstep visitors after money, drink or food, a report on the mounting menace at the vicarage says.

Some submissions to their inquiry said clergy should make no attempt to get involved with callers to their homes beyond providing information on where they could get help. Others suggested food vouchers or produce from harvest services.

doors to have spy holes, chains, security locks and porch lights. John Hall, a north London vicar and chairman of the committee responsible for the report, was abused and threatened by a young man recently out of prison and demanding money. The visitor was offered food instead; he threw it at the vicarage and left. The experience so disturbed his family that one child did not want to leave the house alone for a week.

"In the last couple of years I have had about 50 callers, mostly men, and only three traditional 'gentlemen of the road'. They are young people with all kinds of problems, four of them have been aggressive or violent. Four were very definitely mentally ill, others in real need of medical help, and one was suicidal."

Mr Hall, a former probation officer, said: "One knows the Church is seen as a place of help and sanctuary by people in need but the problems at the door today are often more intractable, difficult and potentially dangerous than they were before."

Beijing mandarins fear Hong Kong chaos after handover

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

A SECRET Chinese report on the future of Hong Kong has warned the Communist Party to brace for riots, a slump in foreign investment and other perils when Britain pulls out next year, a Hong Kong magazine reported yesterday.

An independent Chinese-language monthly, Cheng Ming, quoted what it said was a leaked Chinese document as saying Britain would play the "democracy card" to prolong

colonial influence after 1997. The internal report was said to have been prepared by China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office. Its authenticity could not be confirmed, though its logic matches that of conspiracy theories aired by Beijing.

It said "anti-Chinese and anti-Communist forces" in the United States and Taiwan could stir up trouble after 1997 to undermine China's stability. "Violent and armed turmoil leading to the paralysis of Hong Kong society could occur. It predicted a drop of between 20 and 80 per

cent in foreign investment. Amid fading hopes for a smooth transfer of sovereignty, the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, ended a visit to the colony with a pledge to help non-Chinese ethnic minorities to secure the right of abode in Britain.

He said the Labour Party would press the Government to make an "unconditional" offer of sanctuary to the 3,000-5,000 people who will be effectively stateless after 1997. But he offered scant solace for the bulk of Hong Kong's 6.4 million people, rejecting more British passports for ethnic

Chinese. His visit coincided with another flare-up between London and Beijing. Hong Kong's chief secretary, Anson Chan, confirmed yesterday that the colony had rejected Chinese demands for help in replacing a legislator elected under Governor Chris Patten's reforms with a body picked by Beijing. A Chinese request for a meeting room and "other necessary co-operation" for a provisional legislature was refused.

"Such a body is neither necessary nor desirable," said Mrs Chan, who visited Beijing over the weekend.

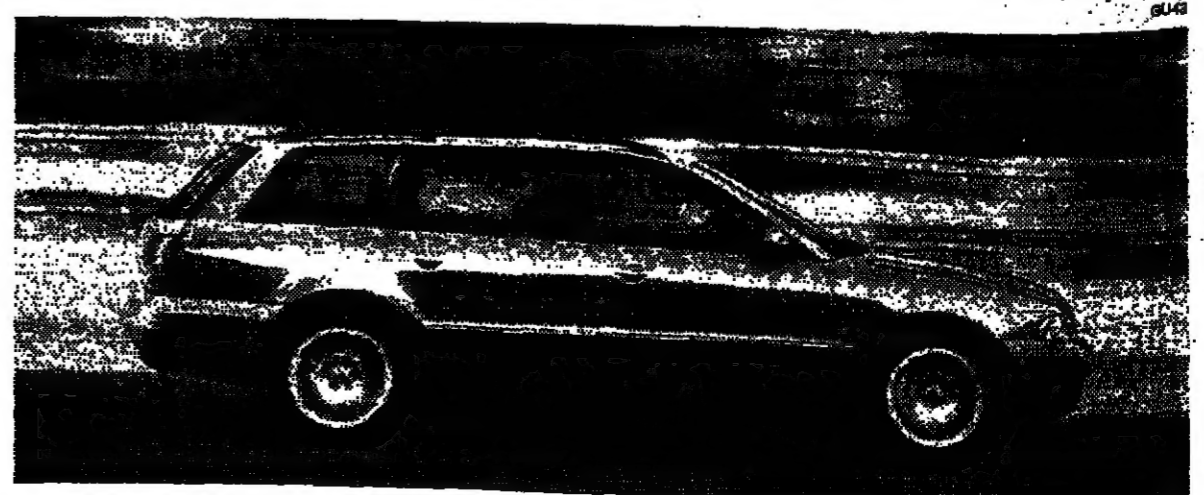
Drugs and crime study wins £6m to treat addicts

Alan Travis

A GROUP of 1,100 drug addicts committed more than 70,000 crimes between them, costing their victims about £34 million over a two year period, according to research published yesterday.

programmes actually work in cutting crime. It has led to a £5 million boost for such services, including the development of heroin-substitute methadone programmes being announced by the Health Minister, John Bowis.

The Task Force to Review Services for Drug Misusers, Dept of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7LN, Free.



The new Audi A4 Avant. Drive one, and you'll never drive an estate. Conventionally, estate cars are functional but rather dull load-luggers. That's why the new Audi A4 Avant isn't one. For more information, please call 0345 998877.

Sullivan back from the brit

FUTEA race t

in brief

Table Tennis

Handwritten note at the bottom of the page.



A scene from the successful recent Hollywood film of Little Women

# Big money rides on unknown novel by Little Women author

Ian Katz and Sarah Boseley on the multi-million dollar expectations aroused by a discovery in a Harvard library

TODD Shuster has already pencilled in Hugh Grant for the male lead. "Lord Percy's role has been written all over it. It's the kind of fable Hollywood loves."

Mr Shuster and his partner, Lane Zachary, may just be the happiest agents in America. A literary bonanza has fallen into their laps: the undiscovered manuscript of Louisa May Alcott's first novel.

Entitled The Inheritance, the hand-written manuscript lay unread in a Harvard University library for decades before it was discovered by two Alcott scholars in 1988.

The academics, Joel Myerson of the University of South Carolina and Daniel Shealy of the University of North Carolina, immediately recognised the text as a previously unknown Alcott novel but filed it away for seven years while they completed other work.

Only last autumn, when the two men began transcribing the author's famously illegible handwriting, did they recognise its potential appeal. "It was very good," says Professor Myerson. "Not an embarrassing piece of juvenilia where you say 'Yes she wrote this, but fortunately she got better'."

Mr Shuster and Ms Zachary say their phones have been ringing off the hook with offers from publishers and studios anxious for a piece of the nineteenth century author whose commercial stock has soared since the successful screen adaptation of her best-known work, Little Women.

In 1984, Ms Zachary sold the rights to another previously unpublished Alcott manuscript, A Long Fatal Love Chase, to Random House for \$1.5 million. Mr Shuster predicts "a multiple million dollar deal" for film and publication rights to The Inheritance.

Alcott (1832-1888) was a prolific writer who turned out over 200 Gothic melodramas because they sold well, and not for any grand moral purpose or satisfaction in the writing.

She had a family to support — her philosopher father, mother and three sisters — whose real-life story Little Women largely tells. The book that made her famous she wrote to commission and reluctantly.

The newly discovered manuscript, which runs to 150 typewritten pages, has a plot that is more typical of the bulk of her work. Until now, Alcott's biographers believed that Moods, written in 1864, was her first novel. But Professor Myerson and Professor Shealy found a note with The Inheritance explaining that she wrote it in 1849 and that it was her first work of fiction.

The book was not mentioned in any of Alcott's journals or letters and had apparently been mis-catalogued when the author's heirs deposited her writings with Harvard's Houghton Library in the 1960s. The two academics stumbled over it in the summer of 1988 as they trawled through Alcott's papers while working on an anthology of her letters and journals.

They decided to photocopy the manuscript, and the text remained in a file in Professor Myerson's office at the University of South Carolina in Columbia until they began the painstaking work of transcribing it last autumn.

At the time they found the manuscript, Alcott enjoyed a relatively small cult following, largely among teenage girls, and they imagined the novel would only be taken up by an academic publisher. But since the success of the film version of Little Women, with Susan Sarandon and Wynona Ryder, Alcott's popularity has soared.

Alcott would have been 18 when she wrote The Inheritance. Like much of her early work, it was riddled with punctuation and spelling errors. Mr Shuster, who describes it as "romantic with a capital R", believes she may have written it merely to entertain her sisters.

Professor Myerson and Professor Shealy have agreed to share any royalties from The Inheritance with Alcott's heir, John Pratt. Mr Shuster anticipates a fierce contest when he and Ms Zachary begin offering it in Hollywood this week.

"It's accessibly written, with rich dialogue, and the scenes are set so succinctly that they are easy to adapt." There is also plenty of action, he adds. "The hero has a dramatic riding accident."

The convergence criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty were designed to improve economic performance and he wanted its terms on budget deficits, debt and inflation strictly enforced whether or not the Government exercised its opt-out.

"I am sympathetic to monetary union, and the better it is constructed and the more sure I am that it will work, the more I will find myself attracted to it."

# Clarke sees off sceptic attack

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor, last night defiantly unfurled the banner for the pro-Europeans in the Conservative Party with a warning that the Eurosceptics were leading Britain towards isolationism.

Giving evidence to the Commons Treasury committee, Mr Clarke mounted a vigorous defence of the principle of a single currency, arguing that monetary union was not a political issue and should be judged on its economic merits.

The Chancellor made clear his anger at rising anti-European sentiment within the party, clashing repeatedly with the two Conservative Eurosceptic backbenchers on the committee. He said he found the language of the Eurosceptics "extraordinary" and the arguments about the loss of sovereignty "bewildering".

Mr Clarke said: "All nations pool their sovereignty. No nation is a political island. We were pooling sovereignty when we joined Nato and the United Nations. We were pooling sovereignty when we signed the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act."

The Chancellor's sharpest words were reserved for long-standing Eurosceptic Nicholas Budgen when he suggested that the "yobboes" in the party refused to be walked over by the Chancellor and the pro-single currency wing of the party.

"A lot of Eurosceptics would like to detach us from the Continent with which our well-being is inextricably linked. It would be isolationist if we followed the more extreme views. It might not be isolationist in intent but isolationism might be the consequence."

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Notebook, page 11



Louisa May Alcott, whose first work The Inheritance has been newly discovered

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# Protesters storm BAE meeting

AGM ends in chaos amid claims of murder plot against Saudi exile

Simon Hewitt Industrial Editor

BRITISH Aerospace's annual general meeting collapsed in chaos yesterday after its chief executive was forced to deny involvement in an alleged plot to "kidnap or murder" the Saudi dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari.

Anti-arms trade campaigners baited the meeting for three hours when they pelted directors with eggs and tomatoes and stormed the podium, accusing the board of being party to genocide.

The chairman, Bob Bauman, was forced to abandon the meeting after having tried carefully to steer it through repeated questioning about the company's arms exports

to repressive regimes such as Indonesia.

The chief executive, Dick Evans, had faced detailed questioning, led by Labour MP George Galloway, about his role in a campaign to silence Dr al-Mas'ari.

Mr Galloway brandished a January edition of the Guardian which revealed a memorandum from the head of Vickers, Sir Colin Chandler, detailing conversations with Mr Evans and other senior defence industry figures about plans to "stifle personally" the Saudi dissident.

"What does it mean if it doesn't mean remove from the scene by murder or kidnap?" the MP demanded.

Mr Evans said he had no knowledge of such a conspiracy. "It is preposterous to suggest that anyone like myself, at the head of a large public company, would involve myself in such activities."

The Government was forced last month to rescind a decision to deport Dr al-Mas'ari, who has waged a propaganda campaign against the Saudi royals from his British exile.

Mr Galloway said BAE, the main beneficiary of the £20 billion Al Yamamah arms deal, had put its future in jeopardy by putting all its eggs into the "unstable" — not to say unsavoury — basket of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Evans rebutted claims that he had put pressure on the Government to deport Dr al-Mas'ari to protect lucrative arms deals. But he said he had a duty to defend the interests of the company and its shareholders.

He refused to answer questions about the memorandum in detail, saying they should be directed to Vickers and Sir Colin.

Earlier a lone protester — refused permission to speak because he held only a proxy card for the meeting — was forcibly removed when he tried to walk to the directors' podium to make a "citizen's arrest" of the board.

As the meeting became more ill-tempered, security guards swamped the auditorium and removed a further half-dozen protesters amid scuffles.

Mr Bauman acknowledged that some small shareholders had genuine concerns about arms exports, but the Government set export guidelines which the company strictly observed. "Individuals must take their concerns to the Government," he said.

He refused to provide shareholders with a full copy of BAE's code of ethical conduct for employees in arms sales, but promised to furnish them with extracts.

Residents insisted Corby was no more violent than other towns of its size. Rev Sheridan said: "I don't think there is a culture of violence. No one set out on Monday night to kill anybody. Incidents like this happen in every town in every corner of every land."

A memorial mass for Louise is due to be held at the school today.

Women on the verge, G2, page 5

"I've never heard of any squabbles around here between girls, it's normally boys who do the scrapping between different estates." Several youngsters claimed the arrival of the annual fair in town was often the sign for local rivalries to erupt.

Residents insisted Corby was no more violent than other towns of its size. Rev Sheridan said: "I don't think there is a culture of violence. No one set out on Monday night to kill anybody. Incidents like this happen in every town in every corner of every land."

A memorial mass for Louise is due to be held at the school today.

Women on the verge, G2, page 5

# Schoolgirls accused of killing pupil

continued from page 1 tated. Louise was a lovely, bubbly girl with a very wide circle of friends.

"She was an extremely popular member of her form. The girls in her class have had their lessons suspended for the day though we will try to get them back to normal as soon as possible."

Counsellors are helping staff and children come to terms with the death.

The Rev Niall Sheridan, chairman of the school's board of governors, said



Floral tributes at the scene of the attack

Louise's father, a lorry driver, was away from home when she was attacked.

Neither parent made any comment to the press yesterday. "Both parents were in the hospital sitting at the bedside and holding her hand," said Rev Sheridan. "There's no bitterness, no rancour."

A neighbour of the family remembered Louise as "fun-loving and full of life like most teenage girls".

In the local newspaper's Fay McClain often served Louise.

If you were thinking of writing poetry, don't; you'll probably have a stable marriage but have severe manic depression. If you're a playwright, you'll almost certainly become an alcoholic with "a problematic or broken marriage".

Philip Hensher, page 9

**Dixons**

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4 BRITAIN

# Tories round on Hogg for failing to win beef pledge

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**F**URIOUS Tory backbenchers attacked the Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg in a fresh anti-Europe backlash yesterday, after he failed to win a date for the lifting of the European ban on British beef during a two-day meeting in Luxembourg.

Mr Hogg tried to reassure MPs in the Commons by announcing that the delayed slaughter scheme for cattle over 30 months old will start today, and that the Government was pressing ahead with a legal challenge to the ban in the European Court of Justice.

But a stream of Tories, including a number of leading Eurosceptics, urged Mr Hogg to threaten retaliatory action with a ban on European imports or withdrawal of EU contributions if the ban is not lifted soon. They also told him not to give way to Brussels' demands for stricter measures.

In his Commons statement, Mr Hogg hinted that the ban on tallow, gelatine and skins might be lifted shortly, although a complete end to



Bill Cash... urged suspension of EU payments

the ban was still the Government's priority. He said the legal challenge would be lodged shortly. As far as the Government's proposal for a selective cull was concerned — involving up to 42,000 animals in herds where traces of BSE had been detected — Mr Hogg alarmed Tory backbenchers by saying the European agriculture council had suggested "additional measures" might be needed on herds with large-scale mad

cow disease. He told MPs that a scheme for the slaughter of young male calves had been in force since April 22 and that the scheme for the disposal of cattle over 30 months would start today. Mr Hogg said that more than 60 abattoirs and 80 markets across the UK would act as collection centres, although there are fears that the scheme will be seriously delayed because of the logistical problems involved in slaughtering up to 15,000 animals a week.

Paul Marland, the Tory MP for Gloucestershire West, and chairman of the Conservative backbench agriculture committee, accused European countries of "blatant disregard" of scientific advice and questioned whether they had a "hidden agenda".

To loud cheers, his colleague David Nicholson urged Mr Hogg to consult with the Cabinet "about how much further we can go from the very selective slaughter policy you have proposed — because I don't think this side of the House would back such a progress — and what other measures we need to take to safeguard our national position".

Bridlington's John Townsend demanded a time limit

on the ban and suggested a threat of retaliatory action "if the ban is not lifted in three or four weeks".

Leading Eurosceptic Bill Cash called for the suspension of Britain's payments to Brussels while senior right-winger Sir Ivan Lawrence called on the Government to ban imports of French and German beef to compensate for the lost exports.

Nicholas Eudgen (Wolverhampton SW) warned the Government's plan for a selective cull would fail to get support in the Commons.

MPs from all parties criticised the Government for failing to give farmers details about the cull of older animals, which should have started on Monday.

Labour's agriculture spokesman Gavin Strang said that "huge uncertainty" surrounded the scheme, and the Government's failure to put it in place on time had weakened Mr Hogg's negotiating position in Luxembourg.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrats' agriculture spokesman, said the "sabre-rattling" of back-bench Eurosceptics and the interference of some Cabinet members had undermined Mr Hogg's European negotiations.



Bernard McElDowney: 'I realised being gay isn't an issue and shouldn't be'

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE SCOTT

## Toxteth man killed on anniversary of gangland murder

David Ward

**A**MAN was shot dead in a betting shop in Toxteth, Liverpool, last night, exactly a year after the murder of gang leader David Ungi prompted a long series of firearms incidents on the streets of the city.

The man, so far unnamed, died instantly after he was shot in the head at close range by a lone gunman. Ambulance staff held back until

they could be given an armed police escort.

There was a major police presence in the area at the time of the shooting because of tension between rival gangs on the first anniversary of the death of Ungi.

A spokesman said: "A black man has been shot dead in a betting shop in Granby Street. The body has been taken to the Royal Liverpool university hospital where a post mortem examination is being arranged."

The killing came less than an hour away from the exact anniversary of the murder of Ungi, who was killed in North Hill Street, half a mile from the betting shop.

Six weeks before Ungi died, John Phillips walked free from court, having spent several months in custody charged with the attempted murder of Ungi in 1994. The trial ended when a witness was unable to identify him.

Five weeks ago, Mr Phillips was shot four times in Toxteth in front of his three-year-old daughter and wife Maria. He survived but is still in hospital.

The recent spate of shootings in Liverpool began on April 13 and has included the attack on Stephen Hardy, a 26-year-old off-duty policeman with no links to Toxteth. It is presumed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Last night Merseyside police opened a hotline for information on the betting shop killing: 0151-777 5351.

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## Gay sergeant makes case for coming out as force for change

Duncan Campbell on a TV revelation

**A**GAY police sergeant who has concealed his homosexuality from colleagues for 14 years will tonight "come out" on television.

His move, welcomed last night by his senior officers, is the latest sign of the growth in "out" gay officers.

Sergeant Bernard McElDowney, aged 38, based in Birmingham with the West Midlands police, said yesterday that there was a large number of gay and lesbian colleagues who were still reluctant to be open about their sexuality, partly because of the "immaturity" of colleagues.

"Initially I thought there was no way I could put myself forward in public and

downey, who joined the West Midlands police in 1982 and is now a sergeant in charge of a community sector.

"Then I realised that being gay isn't an issue and shouldn't be."

Mr McElDowney, originally from Northern Ireland, appears on tonight's Crime Stalker programme on ITV talking about the relationship between the police and the gay community.

"For the first seven years of my service, I had no contact with the gay community," he said. "Then I slowly started going out on the gay scene and I became more confident when I realised gays come from all walks of life."

He said he had experi-

enced no negative feedback from those officers who knew of his decision although lesbian colleagues had had problems "because of some of their more immature colleagues" and had been unwilling for this reason to appear on the programme.

There are now more than 200 members nationally of the Lesbian and Gay Police Association (LAGPA), with more than 100 members in London and around 25 in the Midlands. Mr McElDowney said that this represented only a small proportion of lesbian and gay officers.

Superintendent Bill Guest, deputy head of community services at West Midlands police, last night backed Mr McElDowney: "A person's sexuality is a private matter and we respect his decision." The climate had changed in the last 10 years both within the police service and amongst the general public.

A spokeswoman for Gay London Policing (GALOP) commended Mr McElDowney on his decision, saying that there was still an under-reporting of crimes committed against the gay community because of a lack of trust of the police. Two police forces, Sussex and Greater Manchester, now advertise in the gay newspaper, The Pink Paper.

Other forces are considering such a move.

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July 20 1996

# Zulu child must return to parents

Gary Younge

**A**N Afrikaner woman who has been fighting for the right to adopt a Zulu boy failed yesterday in the Court of Appeal to prevent his return to his natural parents in South Africa.

The woman, known as Mrs S, applied for a stay to block the 10-year-old boy's removal so she could appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

But Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Lord Justice Ward, refused the application. "Distressing though this order is, it would not be right to postpone the matter further. I have no doubt whatever that this application should be refused," he said.

The court confirmed that the child, who is a ward of court and can be identified only by the initial "P" until he leaves Britain, must return to his natural parents in Leboia, in the Transvaal.

Mrs S, a British subject of Afrikaner origin, had brought P to London in 1982 intending to become his legal parent so he could join her family.

P's natural mother, who used to work for Mrs S as a housekeeper and nanny, signed a document which gave permission for him to go to Britain where the woman told the immigration authorities she was going to adopt him. Mrs S had said she wanted to make P a member of her family, to accommodate him her home in Maida Vale, west London, and eventually have him educated at a leading British school.

But when the natural mother was interviewed by a social worker in South Africa she said she did not want her son adopted and wanted him back with her. When she

signed the document for her former employer, it was only so his name could be entered on her passport. She expected him to return within five years.

Allan Levy QC, appearing for Mrs S, told the judges today that she wished to challenge the ruling in the European Court of Human Rights on the grounds that her family rights had been infringed.

Patricia Scotland QC, acting for P's natural parents, said the application was hopeless. She said the whole nature of the application was focused on the interests of Mrs S and her family life, rather than the child's.

"This is another attempt by the applicant to try and forestall what is the inevitable," she said.

Last Friday three law lords backed the appeal court's original ruling in March that P must leave. During the last appeal hearing it was noted that "P had lost his ability to speak Zulu and his links with his homeland were growing more tenuous".

"It is against this background that one must try to reach a conclusion in this very difficult and anxious case," said Lord Justice Neill at the time.

"Anyone who has studied this case cannot fail to have great admiration for the appellant and for the love and affection which she and her family have given to P since he was a baby. But he has the right to be reunited with his parents and with his extended family in South Africa."

Both sides agree that the details of how and when the boy will leave the country should be secret, but he is expected to depart within a matter of days.

Mrs S's natural mother is expected to travel to Britain to collect him.



The Stephen Joseph Theatre's new venue in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. The former Odeon cinema opened last night with the musical *By Jeeves*, a collaboration between playwright Alan Ayckbourn, who is also the theatre's artistic director, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The old venue was a redundant boys' grammar school. PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

# RAF to leave Germany after 50 years

**Faults on Polaris submarines leave two-year nuclear 'gap'**

David Fairhall  
Defence Correspondent

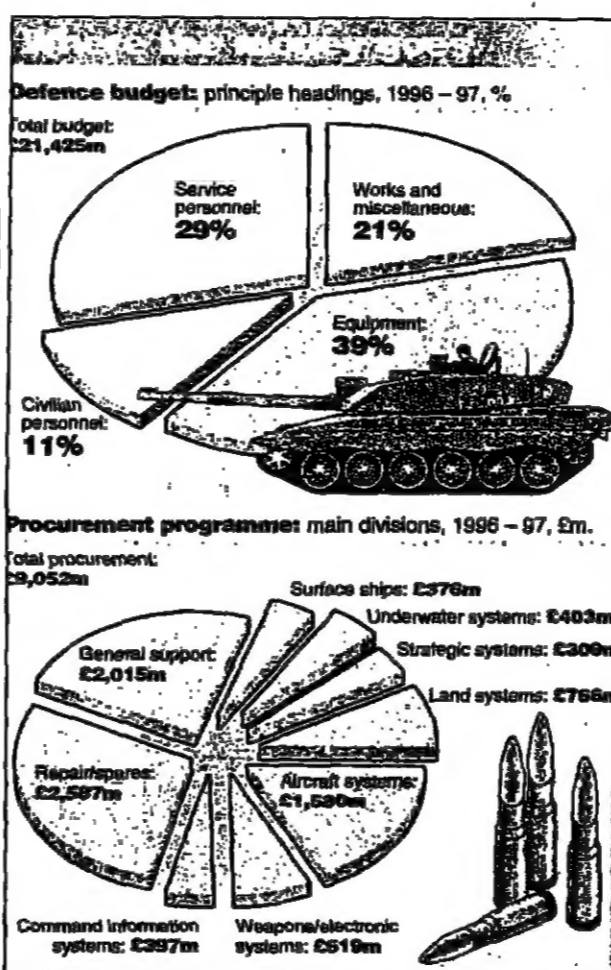
**T**HE last four RAF squadrons in Germany are to be pulled out, ending a deployment that began in post-war occupation more than half a century ago. RAF Bruggen, the only British air base remaining from the five established in Germany at the end of the second world war, will close in 2002.

The departure is prompted partly by the German population's refusal, now the Soviet threat has been removed from its eastern borders, to allow the RAF's Tornados to practise low flying. Now will the Germans tolerate British 60-tonne Challenger tanks — many of which will remain there for the foreseeable future along with 27,000 ground troops — ranging over their countryside in the way they used to.

However yesterday's disclosure, in which the RAF withdrawal was announced, confirms plans for British forces to carry out manoeuvres deep in eastern Europe, on tank ranges formerly used by Soviet troops.

In September, armoured units will deploy to the Drawsko Pomorskie range in western Poland, while the Royal Welch Fusiliers will exercise on the Lvov training area in Ukraine.

Both countries are happy to accept the environmental disturbance in return for hard currency. In Poland's case, making western forces welcome is also a means, with



the despatch of peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, of establishing credentials for early membership of Nato.

The disclosure that the Royal Navy's Polaris nuclear deterrent patrols are to end this year, two years before the next of the new Trident missile submarines, HMS Vigilant, is ready for sea, is also buried deep in the white paper. It means that until 1988 only two submarines will be available to maintain nuclear

**Defence spending by Nato countries, 1995, \$US.**

US	1,048
Norway	863
France	620
Denmark	600
UK	576
Netherlands	527
Germany	509
Greece	461
Belgium	455
Luxembourg	368
Italy	349
Canada	310
Portugal	285
Spain	216
Turkey	97

**Former SAS men could face MoD gag on memoirs**

David Fairhall  
and Richard Norton-Taylor

**F**ORMER members of the SAS making their fortune from books about secret operations in Iraq and elsewhere have been warned that the Ministry of Defence will use "all appropriate legal options" to prevent them disclosing sensitive military information.

Abandoning its habitual secrecy about the SAS, the Special Boat Squadron, and other special forces, the ministry used the white paper to remind former members that operational security was fundamental.

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said soldiers' lives could be put at risk by revealing their covert methods. "If we are not able to arrive at an agreement, then we will use the law to protect the lives of these very brave people."

A spate of memoirs included Sergeant Andy McNab's best-selling *Bravo Two Zero*, a lurid tale of operations behind Iraqi lines. Legal options available to the ministry include prosecution under the Official Secrets Act or civil actions for breach of confidence.

However, the High Court dismissed a government attempt to seize royalties owed to George Blake, the double agent, for his memoirs, saying that preventing Blake gaining financially was "an interference with his rights of free expression".

# Exclusion row head blames 'forked tongue'

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**T**HE Tyneside head teacher at the centre of a row about an excluded 3-year-old yesterday blamed the Government for operating a "forked tongue policy" — demanding higher standards in education, but stopping schools taking the steps necessary to instil good behaviour.

Madeline Watson, head of Leburnr comprehensive, was speaking about the statement which has kept one of her pupils out of the school since, despite a decision by an independent appeals panel in December that his exclusion could be overturned.

Staff in the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers voted against teaching Graham from, alleging that he attacked a teacher. But his parents rejected the offer of a special education programme which would have kept the boy in isolation from other pupils.

As the governors prepared for a special meeting to break the deadlock, Mrs Watson said she accepted the principle that teachers could refuse to teach violent pupils.

"There is, however, a wider issue which needs to be addressed by the whole teaching profession. That is the forked tongue policy of the present Government which, with one tongue, instructs schools to raise standards in education. Meanwhile the other tongue dictates legal procedures that effectively remove from schools the power to lay foundations for good behaviour."

"Such foundations are essential for building an orderly environment which the vast majority of parents expect and in which teachers may teach and children may learn without disruption or threat to their safety", she said.

South Tyneside local education authority yesterday warned the governors that they were legally obliged to readmit the boy, but their meeting to discuss the case ended with no sign of a break in the deadlock.

Robin Sequire, the schools minister, has published plans to let schools put pupils in detention after normal school hours, even if parents object. The Government is also reconsidering parents' right to appeal against expulsion after the re-statement of a pupil in Nottingham last month almost sparked a teachers' strike.

More than 650 pupils were led to safety within three minutes of a fire which spread rapidly after an explosion in a technology block at a comprehensive school in Runcorn, Cheshire, writes David Ward.

Fifteen fire engines and 70 firefighters pumped water from a swimming pool at a nearby recreation centre to put out the blaze at Brook Vale school but at least a third of the two-storey building was gutted.

The cause is believed to have been an exploding acetylene cylinder stored in an area used by a carting club.

Two 19-year-old pupils raised the alarm and 44 teachers managed the evacuation of the building.

No one was injured but damage is estimated at £2 million.

# Oxford reprieves plans for 'bleak' development that threatens city's 'dreaming spires'

Simon Jones

**O**XFORD city council has reprieved plans for a giant leisure complex in the city's historic centre. If it goes ahead, the famous "dreaming spires" skyline will be permanently changed.

The £17 million scheme, on land close to the medieval colleges and churches, has been criticised by the Royal Fine Art Commission for its "general bleakness". It includes a nightclub for 1,800 people, a 10-screen cinema, bingo hall, five restaurants and pub.

The plan has been fought

for many months by residents, conservationists and architects, who say it is too big, too tall and too ugly. They fear it will increase Oxford's street violence and drug-related crime.

Sandra, a residents' association set up to fight the scheme, claims 1,288 objections have been made. Despite this, councillors have narrowly voted to reprieve the scheme — which planners had thrown out — to allow Penttila, the developer, to make changes.

Although the Labour-dominated council has yet to give final approval, opponents fear

the plans will survive essentially unchanged. A powerful incentive is the £5 million which Penttila has agreed to pay the council for the site.

Bernard Roe, Sandra's chairman, said: "We sympathise with the council's lack of money, but don't feel such a monstrous scheme should be foisted on the people of Oxford." The council has not tested public opinion.

Nick Penttila, the managing director, does not rule out redrawing the plans to secure the Fine Art Commission's endorsement. He is confident of starting work by the summer, and opening within the year.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Riding the storm with the wizard of Bihar

THE cows and goats galloped off to the right, and an army of children swarmed in from the left, led by a little girl in a ragged blue dress. Laloo's helicopter had arrived.

Trivenigan, a hamlet of thatched huts close to the Nepal border, rarely sees a politician, and never one so beloved as Laloo Prasad Yadav, aged 48, the champion of the poor in one of India's poorest states, Bihar.

When Laloo, as he is universally known, stepped up to the wooden stage and faced a sea of expectant faces, it was as a man giving the downtrodden the dignity they have for centuries been denied.

They were transfixed by his rollicking rhyming Hindi his impromptu snatches of songs, his imitations of Bombay movie heroes.

It was the same at each of his eight stops in the northern and eastern border areas of Bihar — including an unscheduled visit to Rota, a village of 5,000 with a stage gift by 10.

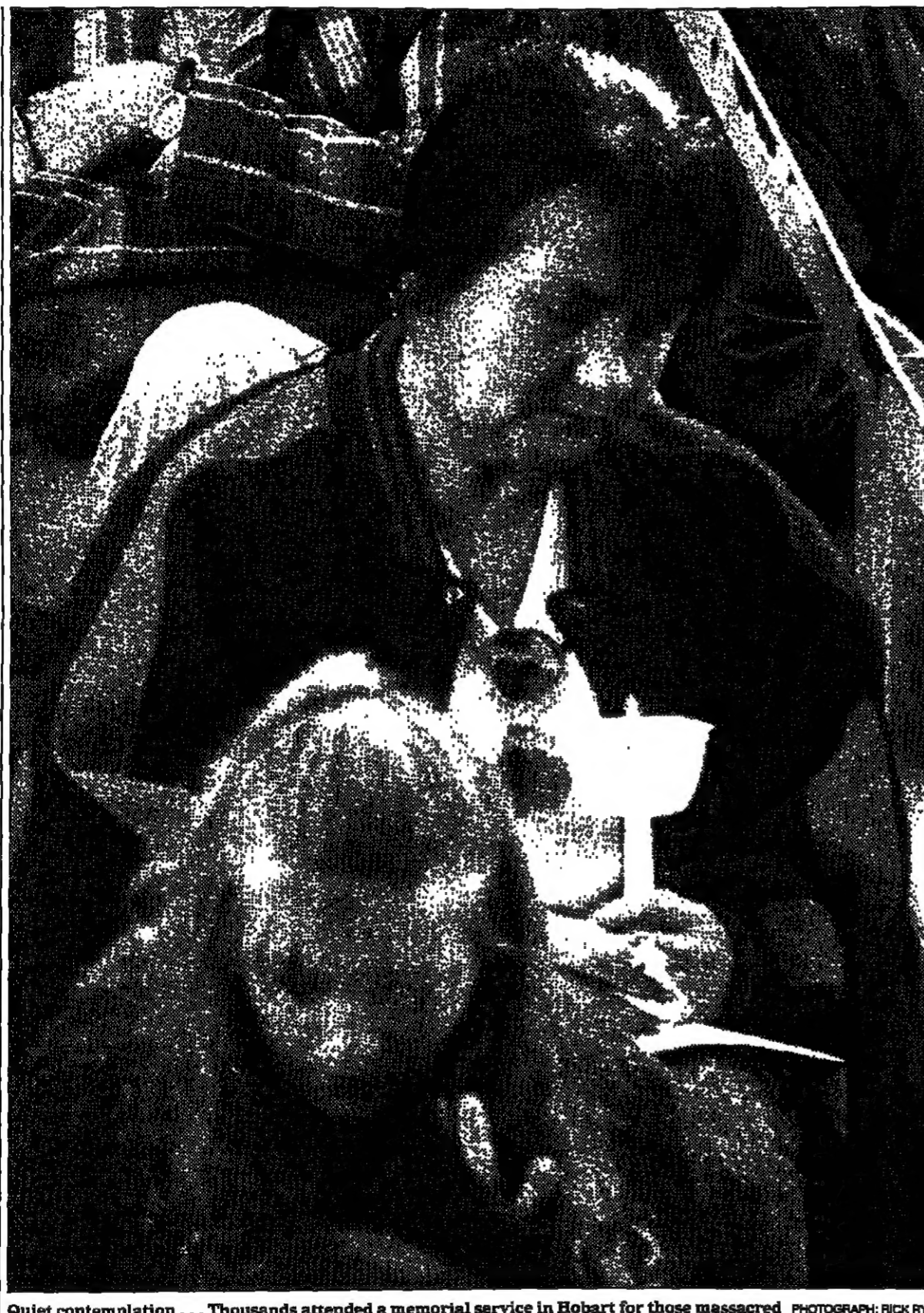
ready? Don't worry, brothers, it doesn't matter." By the time the helicopter whirred again, the people were coming, running across the fields from every direction.

escapable poverty of one of India's least developed states: roads bare of cars or even tractors; villages where only Hindu temples and Christian churches dare to rise above the thatched roofs.

We got on board, but it was getting late, and a summer storm was brewing. Daylight fled. We flew through the rain over high red mountains covered with trees, the helicopter buffeted by strong winds.

Silent Australia mourns massacre victims

FERRIES stopped in Sydney Harbour, the Stock Exchange suspended trading, and traffic came to a standstill as Australia observed a minute's silence yesterday for the 35 killed in the Tasmanian massacre.



Quiet contemplation... Thousands attended a memorial service in Hobart for those massacred PHOTOGRAPH: RICK RYCHOFT

Dole asks Gingrich to heal abortion schism

SENATOR Robert Dole, lagging more than 20 points behind President Bill Clinton, has turned to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House, to invigorate his faltering campaign.

he trapped in an ideological civil war, rather like the Democrats' struggle over the Vietnam war, which exiled them from presidential politics for a generation.

Mr Dole will need a triumph at the convention to reverse the polls, but San Diego, on the Californian coast, is the stronghold of Mr Wilson, who was once its mayor.

News in brief

US edges closer as Liberian warlord advances on rivals

US WARSHIPS defending their embassy in the Liberian capital moved closer to the shore yesterday while Krahn warriors advanced on rival militia.

US names Iran on state terror

Iran was yesterday named the main "state sponsor of international terrorism" by the United States, which cited Tehran's alleged support for groups from north Africa to central Asia.

'Dead' rebel speaks out

THE Chechen rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, in fighting spirit and good humour, dismissed reports of his death yesterday.

Chain blackmail

A blackmailer has attempted to extort more than DM1 million (£435,000) from a German retailer by setting off explosions in supermarkets.

Peking Man ages

Scientists in California and China say a set of fossils known as Peking Man is at least 100,000 years older than believed.

Soft landing

A depressed Romanian who survived a jump from a 10-storey building after taking 50 tranquillisers is looking for a better way to kill himself.

Within four years, the Luards' middle-class, bohemian existence changed for ever: their eldest daughter, Francesca, was diagnosed HIV positive.

Angela Neustatter

Washington rots as mayor seeks 'spiritual fortification'

MARION BARRY, the Mayor of Washington who was re-elected despite being imprisoned after the FBI videotaped him smoking crack cocaine, denied reports yesterday that he had relapsed into drug and alcohol abuse.

Mob violence stalks Kenya

THE Kenyan government has published a 40-page dossier defending its human rights record.

aged 19, is still being treated for burns he received when a crowd of angry people accused him of stealing the purse of a woman waiting at a bus stop in central Nairobi.

Greg Barrow in Nairobi reports on the government's defence of its record

THE Kenyan government has published a 40-page dossier defending its human rights record. The report comes as Kenyan human rights groups grow increasingly vocal about a rise in mob violence and a breakdown of law and order.

Pass Notes, G2, page 3



July 20 1990

# Peres denies French friction

Marie-Benedicte Allaire in Paris

ISRAEL'S prime minister, Shimon Peres, yesterday played down friction with France over the US-brokered ceasefire in south Lebanon.

"There is no contradiction between Israeli and French policy," he said after lunch with President Jacques Chirac. "We both hope that the Lebanese regain their political independence and their territorial integrity," he added, during a six-hour stopover on his way back from the US.

The French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, has claimed that 80 per cent of the ceasefire deal was based on French ideas. During the crisis, diplomats said Israel believed France's ideas favoured Arab states.

In Washington, meanwhile, President Clinton gave the red carpet treatment to the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to thank him for deciding to drop a long-standing call for Israel's destruction.

Mr Arafat won no new pledges of US aid but President Clinton did promise to work to persuade donor nations to honour \$2.4 billion (£1.6 billion) in pledges to help Palestinian economic revival. — Reuter.



War game... Ahmed Ganeem, aged four, plays in Qena, south Lebanon, a day after the village buried 83 refugees killed by Israeli shells on April 18. PHOTOGRAPH AHMED AZAMIR

# Yeltsin drops pledge to stop capital punishment as crime mounts

## Europe slates rising use of Russian death penalty

David Hearst in Moscow and John Palmer in Brussels

**A**LARM is mounting among some of the 38 member states of the Council of Europe at a steep rise in the use of capital punishment in Russia, in defiance of promises the country made when it joined the council earlier this year.

President Boris Yeltsin has ordered an unprecedented number of executions of criminals found guilty of a capital offence, in response to popular clamour to get tough on crime.

In the first three months of this year alone, he refused a reprieve to 46 people. Most or all of them have been executed. Three years ago, only four people were executed out of 153 cases referred to him for reprieve.

The increasing use of the death penalty — delivered by a bullet in the back of the head — is placing Russia in breach of its obligations as a recent member of the Council of Europe, Moscow undertook to impose a three-year moratorium on state executions, pending the abolition of the death penalty.

The Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, will face tough questioning when

**I will end criminality in 10 days. I would order all criminals shot. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party**

The death penalty is applied in more than 100 countries, including... 12 member states of the Council of Europe.

Yuri Skuratov, prosecutor-general

he meets foreign ministers from other council countries in Strasbourg today.

"Russia entered into a number of important commitments on capital punishment and other human rights reform issues when it was admitted to the Council of Europe in January," a council spokesman said in Brussels yesterday.

"These alarming reports, suggesting that far from suspending executions they are being used with increasing frequency, are certain to be examined very closely."

Professor Sergei Vitsin, a senior member of a commission which makes recommen-

dations to the Russian president on appeals to commute the death penalty to a life sentence, told the Guardian: "There is still no decision in Russia on imposing a moratorium on executions. There is a debate now about how this moratorium must be introduced, by president's decree or by a resolution of the state Duma, but there is no precedent for this."

Prof Vitsin, one of 15 people on the commission, said social pressures and public opinion were forcing the president to get tough on crime. "We are living through a phase of growing cruelty in the penal policies of the state, and the reason is growing pressure from society," he said.

"Our commission is very strongly criticised in the press, especially the provincial press, for trying to make the punishment less severe. The local press is clamouring for greater punishment — the cruefter, the better. There is a widespread belief that the more severe the punishment, the more effective the fight against crime."

Police detectives in Moscow say the price of a contract

killing has fallen to as little as £130 — a week's wages for many Muscovites. The latest victim was Dmitry Nechayev, the prime minister's doctor, who was shot twice in the head. Such cases are inflaming public opinion.

With law enforcement agencies under heavy pressure to get results, prisons are overcrowded. Mr Yeltsin recently increased to 30 days the period a suspect can be detained pending a decision by the prosecutor-general.

Lev Razgon, a former Gulag prisoner who is on the commission, wrote in the Izvestia newspaper: "The number of people facing the death penalty is growing. There is no place to keep them, and the problem is being resolved by mass executions, according to many people in the juridical system. A bullet is cheaper than building new prisons. As long as the moratorium required by the Council of Europe is not introduced, the machine sending people to their deaths will be working overtime."

There is also concern in the Council of Europe at the role of the Russian forces in the Chechen war. When it joined the council, Russia promised a total ceasefire and immediate talks with Chechen leaders on a political settlement.

Year	HOPES DENIED	
	Reprieved	Executed
1985	5	404
1986	12	177
1987	10	130
1988	9	88
1989	4	78
1990	12	72
1991	37	15
1992	55	1
1993	149	4
1994	158	19
1995	5	46
1996 (to date)	0	46

### Triple killer condemned to die in US 'is mentally impaired'

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

**D**EFEENCE lawyers making a last-minute appeal for a condemned triple-murderer in California say prison officials withheld vital mental health documents for 12 years.

Keith Daniel Williams has been on death row for 17 years, and is to die by lethal injection tomorrow. In 1978 he shot dead two brothers when they refused to return a \$1,500 (£1,000) bad cheque he had written for their old car. He then kidnapped a woman and shot her in the head while raping her.

Williams, now 48, displays symptoms of a condition commonly associated with sudden senseless killing, foetal alcohol syndrome. It is an impairment of the brain caused by excessive drinking during pregnancy.

He was frequently beaten by his stepfather and suffered head injuries in adolescence in three accidents. This history is classic among condemned men in the US, but is usually ignored in the current mood for more executions.

In Williams's case, evidence of serious mental impairment emerged only two weeks ago, when prison officials turned over 595 pages of documents which had first been requested in 1984. The Bureau of Prisons had maintained they did not exist.

Richard Mazer, the defence attorney, said Williams was in prison before the murders he received medication and was a model prisoner. After his discharge, the treatment abandoned, he committed the murders.

## NATIONWIDE MORTGAGES A GUIDE TO WINNING

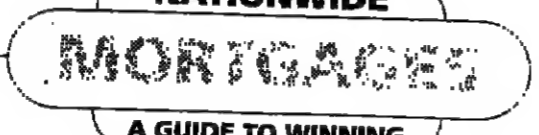


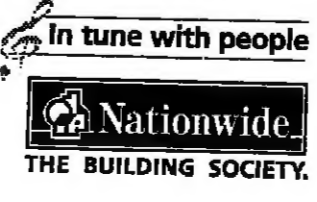
fig. 6 THE MASTER STROKE

Drive down to Nationwide and we'll put a 70% discount your way.

Minimum Deposit	Discounted Rate in Year 1	APR (Variable)
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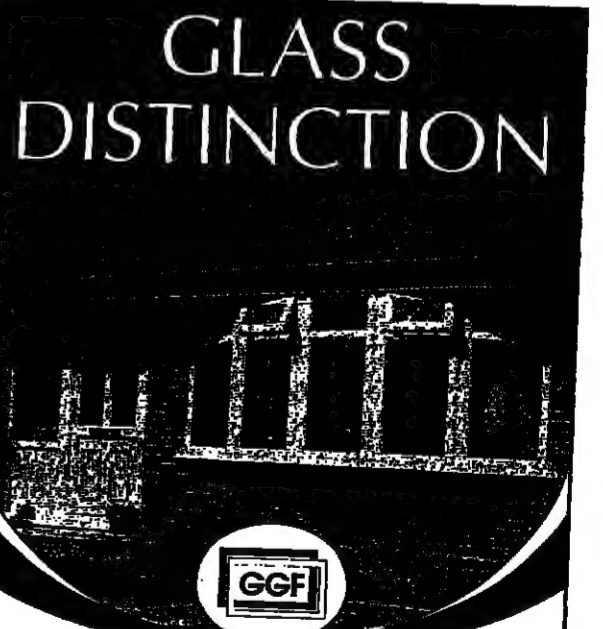
consistently competitive rates that we, as a building society, can offer. In addition to this, if you get around to Nationwide before the 31st of July, we'll chip in an extra £50 bonus. And if you're already a Nationwide borrower, moving home, the advantages are even more to the fore. Aim for your local Nationwide branch or phone 0800 30 20 10 (quoting ref. P204).



Find us on the Internet at <http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

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Diary Matthew Norman

MYSTERY enshrouds the romantic life of Andrew Neil. You will recall vigorous efforts of late to find Andrew a wife...

I seems that Mandy Mandelson may have more work to do explaining his party to the people. The Collins English Dictionary refuses to include the phrase 'New Labour'...

An article predicting the Prime Minister's survival appears in the Telegraph. The leadership has made mistakes (and how) I treasure my copy of Mr Major's speech on the eve of Black Wednesday...

CONTRIBUTION to Tuesday's Family Law Bill debate catches the eye. Wife-beating, said Tory MP Andrew Rowe, 'is not the only way people destroy one another'...

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank Wheeler of the Mirror, Pat Sheehan of the Sun, Matt Driscoll of the Daily Star, Steve Curry of the Express, and Graham Nickless of the Mail...

SPeAKING of Mr Hoddle - one of football's select group of born-again Christians - this seems the perfect time to dredge up a monster funny (well, funny-ish) aperçu from the football agent Eric Ball...



Minor hurricanes that lie in wait

Commentary Hugo Young

in Washington

REPUBLICANS give Bill Clinton little, and at least 36 per cent of Americans declare they would in no circumstances vote for him. But all agree he's a maestro in one mode: the management of disaster...

In a month's time, that may change. After all, six months ago they said he might be finished. For the moment, swirling fashion dictates that the pundits outdo each other in extravagant contempt for anyone who doubts the President has already won. Residual prudence requires that the public should not yet be favoured with these certainties...

The difference would be great. The first is in the courts. The selection of federal judges, culminating in appointments to the Supreme Court, is a prerogative which, though inviolated by the Senate, can set a president's stamp on law and morality for decades ahead...

The balanced budget is an orthodoxy to be propitiated whatever the state of the economy

Second, the environment. Though Newt Gingrich has begun to express some sensitivity to the growing national awareness of environmental destruction, his party has an atrocious record. Dole himself, leader of the Senate, has brokered a series of regulatory laws opening up the forests to loggers and the wilderness to property developers...

After 19 years at the sharp end of the criminal justice system, Vivien Stern condemns Michael Howard's treatment of offenders as dangerous and destructive

Let the ex-cons back in

IN BARCELONA last weekend a group of people from all 15 European Union countries met to discuss employment and ex-offenders. They were all in favour of reintegrating ex-offenders into the labour market, and they talked about social cohesion, the dangers of social exclusion and the need to persuade employers to give jobs to ex-convicts...



petty, mad or sad, very young or just inadequate, a movement is being destroyed that has been painstakingly built up since the last century. Charitable workers used to stand at the prison gates to give a half-a-crown and a bag of tools to the prisoners when they were discharged. The successors of these workers are the higher numbers of volunteers - groups, individuals, churches - who are prepared to help an ex-offender find a path back into society...

A language is in use which casts doubts on offenders' common citizenship with the rest of society. Rehabilitation means to put on again the garb of citizenship. And it is this common citizenship on which rests the entire edifice of 'doing good' in a term of derision? How are they to respond when they hear that they must be on one side or the other? If they help offenders, it is claimed, then they obviously do not care about the pain and suffering of victims. They have chosen to throw in their lot with the criminals, even though the reality is that by helping offenders to re-integrate they are reducing the number of future victims.

The Home Secretary in 1910 was Winston Churchill. In a famous speech he described the principles that were to form the ethical basis of this century: '... a constant heart-searching by all charged with the duty of punishment, a desire and eagerness to rehabilitate in the world of industry all those who have paid their dues in the hard coinage of punishment... and an unflinching faith that there is a treasure, if you can only find it, in the heart of every man.'

Where are those principles now? This week Vivien Stern leaves the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro), where she has been Director since 1977

Black dogs behind the typewriter



Philip Hensher

A DOCTOR called Felix Post, of the Maudsley Hospital in London, has made some pretty worrying discoveries about the psychology of writers. If you were thinking of writing poetry, don't you'll probably have a stable marriage but have severe manic depression. If you're a playwright, you'll almost certainly become an alcoholic with a probability of broken marriage. If you're a novelist, you'll die young (76 per cent before the age of 74), and you're more likely than not to have an anxiety-depressive disorder, springing from what the good doctor calls 'the greater inner turmoil and neural activity involved in writing poetry'. Save yourself some grief; give up now.

The good news is that poets, on the whole, do a bit better. They aren't generally big drinkers, and they're generally sound pretty surprising to readers of Dylan Thomas and Louis MacNeice. I always suspected that poets dined out on the reputation of a few high-profile fast-livers, and in reality they went to bed early with a cup of cocoa. Goethe is more typical than Rimbaud. But novelists certainly are a lot of old wrecks, according to Dr Post; depressives like Hemingway, boozers like Fitzgerald, eaten up with self-hatred like Waugh, or frankly, like Dostoevsky, not far from insanity.

Dr Post's studies are largely based on figures from the past, whose notoriety has partly ensured their survival. So it's difficult to say whether this is a representative sample, or whether novelists now are a far more well-balanced, sober, hard-working bunch of pillars of society. It might be the case, but I doubt it; the only part of Dr Post's findings which sounded obviously bizarre was his concern that there was a higher than average incidence in his study group of 'anti-social, histrionic and narcissistic traits'. Twenty-three per cent, apparently; it's almost impossible to believe that, among the double-crossing, egotistical, exasperating ranks of writers, there is as high a proportion as 77 per cent who don't have these traits.

What these studies don't really address is the strange usefulness of psychoses to writers. Of course, nobody likes being depressed, or alcoholic, or whatever; no one would consciously choose it. But the involuntary ways of the mind very well might find a depressive temperament

useful. Writers will generally do anything to avoid writing; there are very few who actually like writing, rather than having written. For some - Dylan Thomas springs to mind - developing a hopeless habit of drink might actually be a way of preventing work, a way of explaining away the terrible dread of writing.

These problems do shape the work of writers, and we'd be wise not to depreciate them too strongly without considering what they contributed to the work. There are some writers whose work was genuinely ruined by their problems; the novelist Patrick Hamilton, for instance, was so alcoholic that parts of his last works are barely sketched out, tragically stunted as the babies of drunks. One of the greatest of 20th-century novelists, Henry Green, was more or less destroyed by drink. But there are others, like Louis MacNeice, who actually seem strengthened by a psychological problem. MacNeice's late poetry, or the novels of Malcolm Lowry, reactively, to have the same exquisite smoothness of transition of a plausible drunkard.

Still more complicated is depression. Of course, some careers are cut tragically short by depression. Sylvia Plath as Philip Larkin thought, initially to love with a literary fashion until it overwhelmed her. But one of the most characteristic features of the depressive is to feel that they deserve to be punished, and to punish, recklessly, on a course of action which will bring about some form of punishment.

SADISTS always claim they want to put the world to rights; I wonder whether their strange depressive temperament doesn't rather want to invite revenge, and confirm their low sense of worth. In a writer like Evelyn Waugh, this might well show itself in the gratuitous rudeness, the sheer, pig-headed obstinacy and unstoppable need to scribble. And, though many writers do have psychological problems, judged by ordinary standards, and few of them actually like having these problems, most of them learn to live with them. The few who can't live with the black cloud which, for many writers, constitutes both their burden and their gift, make the headlines; most carry on. And a few grow to value what medical science sees as abnormality, and wouldn't let Dr Felix Post anywhere near them. After all, he might cure them.

Philip Hensher's latest novel is Kitchen Venom (Harmont Hamilton, £18)

Advertisement for Staffordshire featuring a Shire horse and the text 'SHORT BREAKS WITH LONG MEMORIES'. It describes the beauty of the Staffordshire region and offers holiday packages with discounts for members.



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Labour says sale is a 'cynical misuse of national resources' and calls for Stock Exchange inquiry

25pc return on Railtrack

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

LABOUR yesterday called on the Stock Exchange to investigate 'serious concerns' about the near £2 billion sale of Railtrack...

But Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, ignored her protests and hailed the public's continuing enthusiasm for holding shares as...

By contrast with City investors, private investors will receive a 10pc share dividend...

Unless the initial enthusiasm of potential investors is reflected in actual applications for shares...

Notebook

Clarke brushes sceptics aside



Mark Milner

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is a robust politician. Certainly he was in fine form yesterday in front of the Treasury select committee...

Equally predictably the Transport Secretary claims rail travellers, shareholders and taxpayers will all benefit...

One group unlikely to be muddled is made up of private investors. According to Sir George almost two million people have registered an interest in buying shares...

Hopes for rate cut as output slips

Sarah Fryle

HOPES of an imminent interest rate cut grew last night after a survey of factory bosses showed that Britain's manufacturing sector has declined for the third month in a row...

City analysts warned that the sector is bordering on recession and said that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, now had the ammunition to persuade the Bank of England that a cut in base rates was needed to boost demand...

Despite separate data from the Bank of England showing that consumer credit rose by £700 million in April, and figures from the British Bankers' Association showing the largest quarterly rise in lending since 1991...

Factories reported the sharpest drop in new orders since October 1992, when Britain fell out of the exchange rate mechanism...

dex, which is a measure of factory activity, including output, orders, prices and employment. There has been no significant growth for a year...

UPS economist Alex Garrard said: "Faced with a manufacturing sector stuck in the doldrums, few signs of a pick-up in key export markets, and the prospect of further sub-trend GDP growth to come...

The prices element of the PMI was the lowest since the survey began in July 1991, reinforcing the view that inflationary pressure is weak...

Evidence that the US economy is strengthening emerged last night as the index of leading economic indicators rose in March for the second month in a row...



On guard... Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto with a bamboo sword at the International Trade and Industry Ministry in Tokyo

Founder's wife pockets £13.5m as she boots the chemists

Ian King

MARILYN Lloyd, the wife of Lloyds Chemists' founder and chairman Allen Lloyd, yesterday scooped £13.5 million after selling her complete stake in the company...

In a statement, Lloyds Chemists said Mrs Lloyd had sold her entire holding of 3 million shares in Lloyds at 450p a time...

However, the sale raised eyebrows in the City, since Lloyds Chemists is currently the subject of rival takeover bids from Britain's Unichem and Germany's Gehe...

Particularly surprising was the price at which Mrs Lloyd sold, which was well below Unichem's 497p and Gehe's 500p bids...

Mrs Lloyd, who is in her early 40s, married Mr Lloyd in 1972. The following year, Mr Lloyd sold the couple's house, car and furniture to finance their chemist's shop...

She stayed with the company as it grew into Britain's second biggest chemists chain, latterly working as a buyer at the group's head office...

Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

'Come clean' call to Saudi investors

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

DIRECTORS of the National Grid yesterday moved to uncover the intentions of a shadowy Saudi Arabian investment group which may take control of a £400 million stake in the firm...

Finance director John Utley said that Section 212 disclosure notices had been served on Olayyan Group, its equity investment arm Crescent Holdings, brokers HSBC James Capel and conglomerate Hanson...

Grid shares last night closed 5p down at 199p. Hanson sold its shares at 195p a share. Industry sources said yesterday's fall indicated there was little institutional demand for the shares...

Mr Utley said the Grid was seeking information from Olayyan about its intentions. He admitted the board was "baffled" about the nature of the derivatives deal...

tives deal, which Capel refused to clarify.

Mr Utley said the group was "clearing through the normal channels" in seeking "sensible information" needed by its shareholders.

Disclosure notices were served on James Capel and Hanson on Tuesday, and on Olayyan and its subsidiaries yesterday.

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Mr Utley said the Grid was seeking information from Olayyan about its intentions. He admitted the board was "baffled" about the nature of the derivatives deal...

Grid teetered as viewers switched on 10pm cuppa

Ian Wylie

DISCLOSURE that the electricity system recently came close to collapse for a fourth time forced the National Grid to admit yesterday that the number of power cuts was increasing...

The survey claims that by making current account customers wait four or five days for cheques paid-in to clear, banks and building societies are quietly earning up to 1p...

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Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

£1 m-a-day bank rip-off

Ian Wylie

BANKS and building societies are short-changing their customers by £1 million a day by delaying cheques from clearing...

The survey claims that by making current account customers wait four or five days for cheques paid-in to clear, banks and building societies are quietly earning up to 1p...

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ing an extra £1 million a day in the money markets...

While some banks and building societies start paying interest on cheques on the third working day, the Royal Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank...

Some banks and building societies permit withdrawals on four days, but the report accuses Abbey National, Bank of Scotland, Barclays and the Woolwich delaying interest payments until the fourth day...

Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

Stag-hunt delight

THE Government's plans to privatise Railtrack look to be drawing towards a predictable conclusion. The Opposition parties are outraged...

While there may be more to monetary union than economics, such a union will never work if the economics are ignored...

US papers come under threat as Microsoft puts news on the Web

Mark Tran in New York

MICROSOFT is to take America's top newspapers by rolling out its online MSN news service on to the World Wide Web where it will be available free to all comers...

Microsoft expects to make money for advertisers if the news service becomes popular with Internet surfers. It can afford to absorb any losses on its free news service as it establishes a grip on the news market...

Microsoft expects to make money for advertisers if the news service becomes popular with Internet surfers. It can afford to absorb any losses on its free news service as it establishes a grip on the news market...

Friendly societies revived

Martyn Halsall
new life for the Victorian self-helpers

FINANCIAL services executives whose fears kept deceased partners out of paupers' graves provided "travelling relief" for itinerant workers...

foundations named in all seriousness as the Druids Friendly and the Universal Brotherhood of Speculative Mechanics...

Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

as building societies shed this brightness through increasing amalgamations into banks. The friendly societies' historical marriage of social provision and financial services is credited with inspiring the formation of the Welfare State...

Mr Lloyd pledged last night to retain his 6.1 million shares in the company until after the MMC has published its report...

Enter the Dragon offer

As the handover to Chinese rule in Hong Kong approaches, the Guardian Finance team's comprehensive reports on the prospects for the colony are now available in booklet form for £2.50, including postage and packing. Please write enclosing cheque or postal order, payable to Guardian Newspapers, to: Enter the Dragon offer, City Office, the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1 3ER

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Table with columns for country and rate. Includes Australia 1.8450, Austria 15.70, Belgium 48.90, Canada 2.00, Cyprus 0.8820, Denmark 6.56, Finland 7.2475, France 7.53, Germany 2.250, Greece 357.50, Hong Kong 11.44, India 52.14, Ireland 0.9575, Israel 4.79, Italy 2.305, Malta 0.530, Netherlands 2.9500, New Zealand 2.1225, Norway 1.55, Portugal 230.00, Saudi Arabia 5.61, Singapore 2.0625, South Africa 5.31, Spain 165.50, Sweden 10.09, Switzerland 1.8075, Turkey 107.587, USA 1.47.

Supplied by NatWest Bank - excludes Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel.

Wise Women

Prices are at a four-year high, but people feel more at home renting than buying. Our all-woman panel of economists asks what that means for the Chancellor

Building slowly... First-time buyers are back in the market and bricks back on site, but an Eighties-style boom is unlikely



'A strong housing market may be a vital element of an election campaign, but it is not a prerequisite of economic growth'

'Job insecurity has made people wary of committing themselves to the long-term obligation of mortgage interest payments, let alone the responsibility of repaying large sums of capital'

'Buying makes a lot of sense provided that the main motive for house purchase is providing a roof over your head'

The world turned upside down

THE housing market has turned upside down over the past few years. In the mid-1980s people did not want to rent, they wanted to buy. Owners-occupiers paid an average of four times their income for a house or flat, and the private rental market was almost non-existent. Now people want to rent.

variety of different occupations. The mobility they need is enhanced by renting rather than buying accommodation. In fact, most people made redundant get another job within three to five months. Despite this, the general ethos of insecurity has made people wary of committing themselves to the long-term obligation of mortgage interest payments.

pain of negative equity. The private rental market in the UK, on the other hand, has been near-moribund for decades. This has been the result of 1960s legislation giving security of tenure to tenants. Until 1988, there was no way that a UK landlord could be confident about access to rented property, or even the rent that could be charged.

Shrinking asset no longer offers liquid gold

Most people living in the UK today their home is their largest financial asset. More than half the population is also building pension funds, either through occupational pensions or through personal pensions.

come and cannot be passed on to later generations — only to a spouse or other specified dependant; then it dies with the dependant. A house is an asset that can form part of an inheritance — what the Prime Minister called "wealth cascading down the generations".

introduce new financial vehicles to permit some of the equity locked into the housing asset to increase the income stream of pensioners have generally failed. The risk/reward ratio has been unattractive to buyers and the Inland Revenue has not reacted favourably to the schemes.

It's the right time for Clarke to put rates on hold

THE question that now faces the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is whether he should continue to ease monetary policy or whether interest rates should be put on hold.

the last three months. The housing market has also picked up. House prices have risen by 3 per cent over the last six months and the industry has reported a significant increase in activity. This now seems to be feeding through into manufacturing.

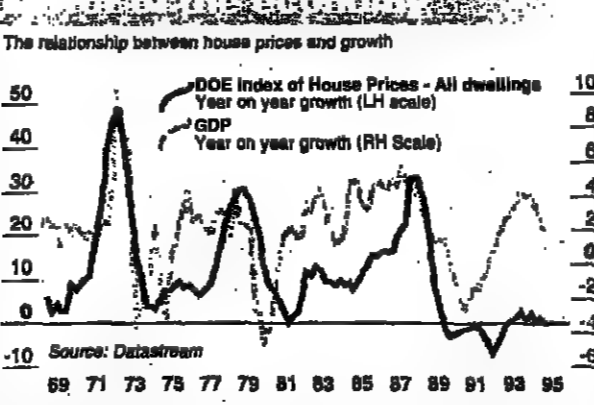
Growth without boon and bust

A STRONG housing market may be a vital element of an election campaign, but it is a prerequisite for economic growth. The old relationships between monetary policy, housing and the economy are being broken down.

the labour market significantly in the 1990s. In recent years, as structural changes in the mortgage market have increased mortgage lenders' access to long-term, wholesale funding, there has been a move towards fixed-rate mortgages.

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Which? punctures price-rise euphoria

Government 'must make amends' for policies that drove buyers to despair. Cliff Jones and Sara Ryle report. HOUSE prices have climbed to their highest in almost four years, but lenders and consumer groups warn that the recovery could remain elusive.

more cautious than it was in January when it predicted an increase of 2 per cent for the year. It warns that a shortage of good properties on the market is holding back a potential increase in activity.

societies and banks, had encouraged people to take on too much debt and also boosted house prices to unrealistic levels. Some homeowners have watched their houses plummet by as much as a third, depending on which part of the country they live in.

iger thro... ont-row

ay with form

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Rugby Union

Tiger thrives in the front-row jungle

Robert Armstrong on the prop Graham Rowntree, who will play a key role for Leicester in the Pilkington Cup final

PROFESSIONALISM may be a new phenomenon in English rugby yet Graham Rowntree has been a professional for the better part of a decade. It has nothing to do with money, at least not until now. It is the mental rigour of the elite modern rugby player. The Leicester and England prop certainly has those qualities, and something more.

but we pressured them in different ways and made things difficult for Redpath. Their scrum-half. I think we put our critics right that day. The obvious pleasure Rowntree derives from a powerful scrumming tends to overshadow the conclusive reason the England selectors promoted him after two years on the bench in loose play. Those who condemn Leicester for a conservative forward-dominated style should consider the pace, strength and dynamism of the 6ft, 17st 10lb lockhead as he surges forward, eating up the yards with the sort of spectacular aggression only rugby can offer.



Pillar of strength... Graham Rowntree is no toby jug prop PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN ROBERTSON

Racing Double Trigger gets his shot in bang on target

DOUBLE TRIGGER, the champion stayer, got rave reviews for his courageous efforts last season. Double Trigger won the Insulup Saguro Stakes at Ascot that his appetite for a fight remains as strong as ever. Grey Shot obliged him by going the distance and it was only in the final strides that his resistance finally gave out under sustained attack.

Salisbury with form for the jackpot races

Table listing horse racing results for Salisbury, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Table listing horse racing results for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for Ascot, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for Salisbury, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring contact information and a list of services.

HODDLE AND ENGLAND



Hand of Hod... Glenn Hoddle's willingness to embrace Continental ideas has been an inspiration to Chelsea on and off the field and at the age of 38 years he is poised to become England's most youthful manager



Graham awaits Bridge call

Martin Thorpe on the probable manager in waiting

GEORGE GRAHAM is the favourite to succeed Glenn Hoddle at Chelsea, completing his resurrection after the one-year ban imposed by the FA over the bung scandal.

The former Chelsea player is free to resume his managerial career this summer and has recently been seen in discussions with the Chelsea chairman Ken Bates and the vice-chairman Matthew Harding.

Christian ready to be thrown to lions

David Lacey says that time is already running out for England's prospective manager as World Cup qualifying looms in September

S O AFTER four months of fiddling, the Football Association has at last found a Christian to throw to the lions.

The career

- 1957: b Oct 27, Hayes, Middx. 1974: signed by Tottenham. 1978: turns pro; debut as sub v Norwich. 1979: scores on full debut v Stoke. 1979: scores on England debut v Bulgaria. 1981: wins FA Cup v Man City. 1982: wins FA Cup v QPR. 1984: wins UEFA Cup. 1987: £750,000 move to Monaco. 1988: wins French league title; last of 53 England caps (8 goals). 1990: resigns through injury. 1991: non-contract comeback in Chelsea reserves; appointed Swindon manager in April. 1993: takes Swindon to Premiership via play-offs; quits a month later to become Chelsea manager. 1994: Chelsea lose FA Cup final. 1995: last game v Arsenal; Chelsea in Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals.

older at the time of his appointment in 1982. Compared with Ramsey, however, time is not on Hoddle's side.

England coaches come and go but the person in charge can do no more than use the material at his disposal to the best of his ability.

the job for July 1 he should sit on the England bench in June for Euro '96. He would be there purely as an observer, and Venables and his coaching team need not be embarrassed by such a presence.

England was appointed as England coach mainly because he was available and despite his already heavy legal involvement.

does not seem to have been the first choice. He may, of course, still turn out to be the best choice for the job. Doubts about his managerial experience will persist but he has already shown, both at Swindon and Chelsea, a steady stream of purpose which is not always his stock-in-trade as a player.

Born again to be England's man

After a trip to Bethlehem with England he once said: 'I could have walked out of that cave, like the rest of the lads, and thought it was a fantastic experience. But there was something more. There was a very strong spiritual feeling.'

He is anything but a soft touch. He expects certain standards from his players on and off the field. He is distrustful of the media and can be interview-wise. But he is ambitious and will stick to his strong ideals to the point of stubbornness.

Mike Spearman, the chairman of Hoddle's previous club Swindon, is in no doubt that Hoddle is the right man to replace Terry Venables. 'He would make an ideal England manager. He gains respect from the players because of his history as a great player and because he can also explain how to do it. He even got those with less

ability to carry out his style. He is a strict but understanding man and, what is more, he has a very happy family background. He has a lovely wife and two children so he can always go home to a wonderful environment. I was very impressed with him during his time here and he was a pleasure to work with. He was trying to get hold of me last Friday, perhaps to congratulate us for winning the championship. That's the sort of man he is.'

Bosman may be boon for Collins

CELTIIC'S John Collins may become the first high-profile British footballer to exploit the Jean-Marc Bosman ruling by moving abroad on a free transfer.

Although there is absolutely no suggestion that Everton and Borussia have entered into any form of discussion about Collins's long-term future, the whole question of the movement of out-of-contract players is causing concern all over Europe.

United's Bruce misses crunch game at Boro

STEVE BRUCE will miss Manchester United's potential championship decider at Middlesbrough. The club captain has torn hamstring and his manager Alex Ferguson said: 'He is out of the running for Sunday, there is no question about that.'

Premiership: Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0 Frustration for Bergkamp

meanwhile, were content to sit back and pass and wait. On the half-hour they nearly paid for their complacency as a Bergkamp free-kick found its way to the captain, Keown, who failed to score.

Immediately Liverpool responded with Dixon skewing the ball perilously over his own bar and Fowler crossing for an offside Collymore to head confidently, but irrelevantly, home.

The Arsenal striker, advancing with only James to his right, squeezed his shot wide of the post.

First Division: Ipswich 2, Huddersfield 1 Mathie's the man

THE glorious Alfred McAlpine Stadium will not be gracing the Premiership next season but Ipswich, down to 10 men after 85 minutes last night, can still make the play-offs.

Ipswich threatened as early as the second minute when Mathie, looking yards offside, ran on to Milton's ball but shot straight at the goalkeeper. But the visitors led after a breakaway move in the 28th minute when the full-back Stockwell could only half-clear Booth's cross into the path of Thornley and the

FOOTBALL IN EUROPE An International Conference for Euro '96 30/31 May 1996, Leicester Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research International Centre for Sports History and Culture Speakers include: Glen Kirton, Gordon Taylor, Rick Parry, John Bromley, Steven Barnett, Prof. Christian Bromberger, Prof. Alessandro Dal Lago, Prof. Furio Radin, Prof. Pierre Lanfranchi, John Williams. For more details ring 0116 2522741 or fax 0116 2522746

Results Soccer: Arsenal (0) 0 Liverpool (0) 0. First Division: Ipswich (1) 2 Huddersfield (1) 1. Fixtures: Ipswich v Huddersfield (1) 11.20, 11.20. Arsenal v Liverpool (1) 11.20.

Cricket: Derbyshire 31 Kent 37 Somerset 43. News and Scores 0891 22 88+. Counties update: Derbyshire 31, Kent 37, Somerset 43, Durham 32, Lancs 38, Surrey 44.

Cricket News and Scores 0891 22 88+ Counties update: Derbyshire 31, Kent 37, Somerset 43, Durham 32, Lancs 38, Surrey 44, Essex 33, Leics. 39, Sussex 45, Glamorgan 34, Middlesex 40, Warwickcs. 45, Gloucesters. 35, Northants. 41, Worcester 47, Hampshire 36, Nottingham 42, Yorkshire 48. Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30. England Internationals follow the team throughout the year Live Commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29 Sport @TheGuardian

Sullivan kick from brink

team shut ce talks

Tennis



Snooker

O'Sullivan back from the brink

Clive Everton in Sheffield

RONNIE O'Sullivan kept alive his chance to supersede Stephen Hendry as the youngest winner of the Embassy World Championship with a dramatic 13-12 quarter-final win over John Higgins...

position for pink left him a tricky shot with the rest. Its failure left O'Sullivan the easiest of chances for 12-12. There was a mistake on either side in the deciding frame...



Wood work... Leslie Law puts in some pre-Badminton training in the Gloucestershire countryside

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Law of increasing returns

Frank Keating meets a rider with an Olympic mission at Badminton this week

THE 11th-hour withdrawal of so many horses through injury - five at the last count - from the Badminton Horse Trials...

course was far more daunting than changing horses. Badminton's Wednesday unveiling of the cross-country hazards inevitably and annually scares the hell out of even the most experienced international rider...

in his lorry, parked near the village hall, while across the road Captains and New Flavour will lord it in the ancient, airy and sumptuous stable block that adjoins the grandeur of the Duke of Beaufort's Palladian pile...

Rugby Union

RFU team shun peace talks

ENGLISH rugby's crisis deepened last night when a meeting chaired by the Rugby Football Union president Bill Bishop was boycotted by the three men charged by the RFU with negotiating with the Courage League One and Two clubs...

Cricket

B&H Cup: Derbyshire v Lancashire

Jones emits no moans after darkness falls on Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE'S new captain Dean Jones took a philosophical view of the defeat that could cost his county a place in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals...



Third man's... Dean Jones bids someone else chase Neil Fairbrother's open-faced deflection

ONLY nine overs were possible at Cardiff, where Somerset won on better run-rate after Glamorgan had advanced from 106 for two to 161 for six...

Table with cricket statistics including scores, run rates, and player names for various matches.

Golf

Europe looking for winners

THE women's professional scene begins this morning on the course, and in the country, where it will come to full fruition later this year. This week it is the Welsh Open, in September it will be the Solheim Cup...

Sport in brief

Rugby Union

Bath could play in Romania in next season's Heineken European Cup after yesterday's draw for the competition...

Soccer

A goal in either half from the prolific Liverpool Youth striker Michael Owen took England to a 2-1 victory in their pool match against Turkey in the European Under-16 Championship tournament at Schrems, Austria...

Tennis

Henman pulls out of Davis Cup

TIM HENMAN, who this week became the British No. 1, has been forced to pull out of tomorrow's Davis Cup tie against Slovenia...

Graham in line for Chelsea job, page 14  
Collins takes the Bosman road, page 14

O'Sullivan wins Crucible thriller, page 15  
Henman out of Davis Cup tie, page 15

# Sports Guardian

CHELSEA MOUNT LAST-DITCH CAMPAIGN TO KEEP THEIR MAN

## Battle rages over future of Hoddle

Martin Thorpe on a long day of delicate negotiations over who succeeds Terry Venables as England manager

**G**LENN HODDLE is expected to formally accept the job of England manager today after spending all of yesterday deep in meetings and surrounded by speculation concerning his immediate future.

It is understood that the Chelsea manager feels the time is right to take up the position he has long coveted, and that this call of destiny overrides any reluctance or sadness he harbours about leaving Stamford Bridge.

Hoddle said yesterday: "Yes, I have been offered the job and I have been given 48 hours to think about it. Lots of thoughts are on my mind and I have got a lot of decisions to make — but a decision hasn't been made yet."

He later added, before departing for two unspecified meetings: "We're hoping that things can be sorted out over the next few hours." It is known that the FA sub-committee charged with finding a replacement to Terry Venables, made as certain as they could that whoever they approached to fill the position would say yes to the offer.

Hoddle had spent yesterday morning locked in four hours of talks with the Chelsea vice-chairman Matthew Harding who was desperately trying to persuade him to stay. But even Harding acknowledged afterwards the hard choice Hoddle had to make. "Glenn is very keen and happy at Chelsea," he said, "but the offer of the England manager's job isn't something you can dismiss lightly."

Although Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, is under pressure to persuade Hoddle to stay, the two are not the greatest of friends. Bates would prefer someone less forthright in his public criticisms and more sympathetic to his view of how the club should be run. Hoddle, on the other hand, finds his chairman's prickly and idiosyncratic character difficult to deal with.

Yesterday Bates was predictably barbed: "If he does decide to go for the England job I wish him all the luck in the world — because, frankly, he is going to need it."

Harding's personal plea came after Hoddle was invited by the FA on Monday night to replace Venables and while the manager was considering the offer the Chelsea vice-chairman slipped in, putting a spirited case for staying at Stamford Bridge to the man who has revitalised the team and the club.

"I keep reminding Glenn that he's younger than me and that he can put his dream of managing England on hold," said Harding. "It is a question of trying to persuade Glenn that there are exciting times ahead at this club and we want him to be part of it."

"But the most important thing for Chelsea today was that Glenn and I spoke for the best part of four hours together and most people thought it would be just a case of him spending 10 minutes over coffee with me and then saying, 'sorry Matthew, but I'm on my way'."

"He was keen to speak to me, but it is important he makes the right decision. It's a question of looking at every side and hoping that Glenn can come up with a decision he can live with."

Hoddle has been procrastinating over signing a new

contract at Chelsea to replace the one that runs out this summer. He harbours deep reservations about the club's financial commitment to team strengthening and is unimpressed by the ongoing internal power battle between Bates and Harding.

He has been seeking assurances over these matters and following recent talks, the Chelsea board is also reported to have offered him £350,000 a year to stay.

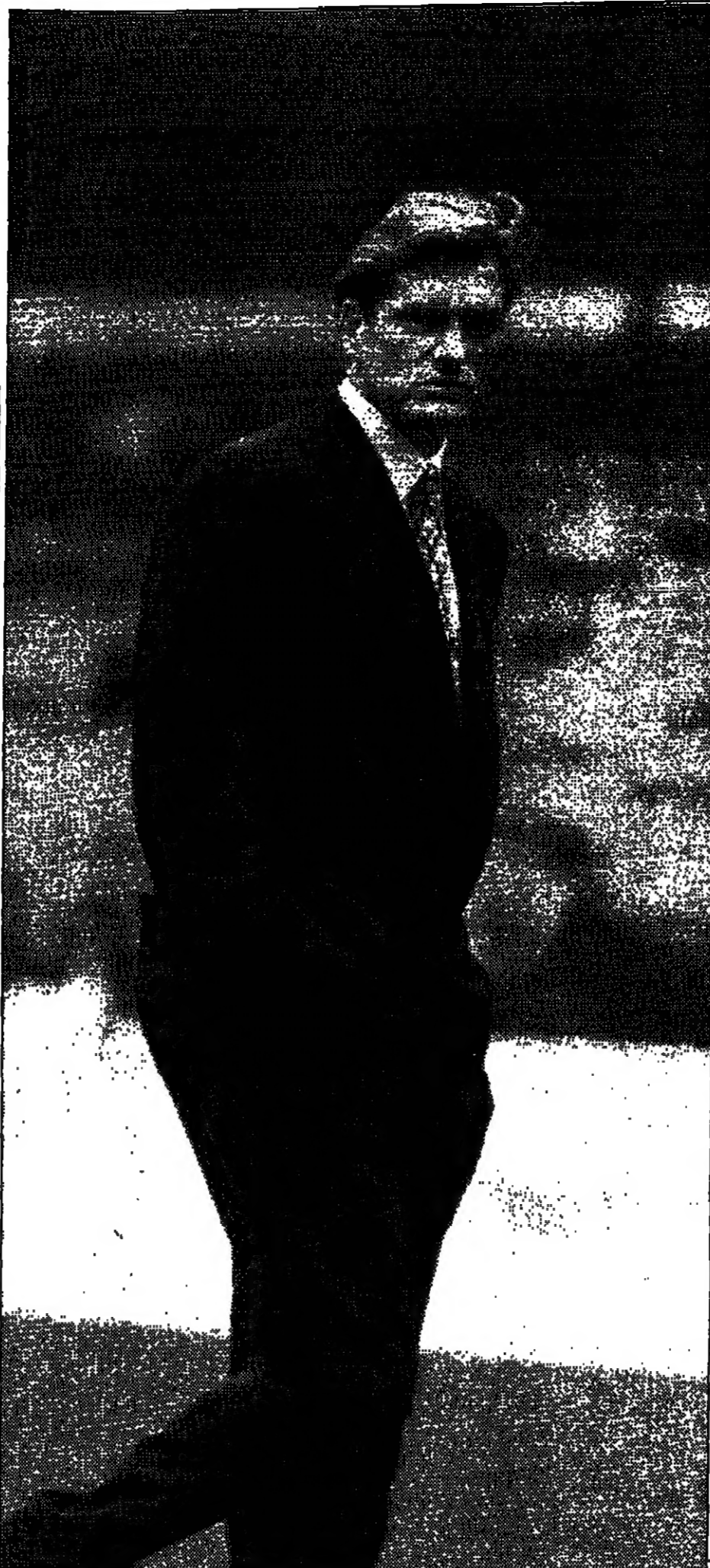
Yesterday Bates indicated that while he wanted Hoddle to remain, his patience was running out. "We're rapidly getting to a situation where we could finish up without a manager and going into the summer looking for one. That is unacceptable and unfair to Chelsea and their fans, so I think it is make your mind up time."

Bates, who met Hoddle's agent yesterday, also had a blast at the FA for approaching Hoddle before contacting the club. "I'm very disappointed with the FA. If they had Glenn on their shortlist they should have approached him a month or so ago so the matter could have been resolved. But," he added, "anarchy rules these days."

The Chelsea chairman then knocked on the head any suggestion of Hoddle making Ruud Gullit England's first foreign coach. "There is no way he will be leaving Chelsea. He is under contract until June 1997 and under no circumstances, directly or indirectly, would we release him from it. If he plays football or does any coaching at all, it will be for Chelsea next season."

Gullit himself said: "I was surprised to see my name suggested as England No. 2 but I can't really talk about it at the moment. We will have to see what Glenn decides to do. I am enjoying myself at the club and all I want to do is to play football."

The FA refused to comment yesterday, but Venables said of Hoddle: "He is a good choice, exceptional. He has the quality he needs, he is the man for the job."



Wanted man... Glenn Hoddle spent yesterday morning in talks with Matthew Harding, Chelsea's vice-chairman. The club have reportedly offered him £350,000 a year to stay

## High season for the drug programmes



Peter Nichols

**I**USED to love bank holidays. They ushered in summer, a drawing back of veils. Bank holidays, though, mean nothing any more — only that they are good days to work because the phone never rings — and summer sneaks up on me. I probably wouldn't even know it was there if it wasn't for my regular alarm call from a TV researcher.

The sap rises among documentary makers when summer is coming, the thoughts turn to things of sport, notably drugs in sport, and they dispatch a researcher, who usually has no knowledge of drugs or sport, to find out exactly who's injecting what into whom.

I get the call in the formative stage of such programmes because I was once considered an expert on drug matters, although I haven't written about it properly for years. I started in the mid-Eighties when it was all an open secret and British athletes used to pop over to Portugal to buy their steroids over the counter and the deaths from liver cancer weren't being counted. For half a dozen years I kept abreast of developments, but that was enough. Writing about sport should be edifying, writing about drugs to sport isn't.

Yet, come May each year, the subject is reawakened, not with just one call this year but three: a medical friend writing a column on steroids, an old contact calling for a chat, and the TV researcher. I knew the researcher, he had come down to the house a year ago and I had lent him a few papers and books. Ostensibly he was calling to tell me that he still had my copy of the Dublin Enquiry report (Ben Johnson and all that). He seemed to think I was urgently in need of it back, but I persuaded him that there was only limited excitement in re-reading an 800-page transcript.

Information, though, is what drives the TV researcher, and before I could make my excuses and put down the phone he was off, seeking clarification of a story that Kerrith Brown was found positive at the Seoul Olympics

only because there was a trade-off with the IOC about another British positive, Linford Christie. Christie, if you remember, had minute traces of pseudoephedrine in his sample, but insufficient to be confirmed positive. I told him that story was nonsense and put down the phone.

The old contact was more interesting. Sometimes, when you are not seeking information, so much more of it comes your way. He brought the conversation on to human growth hormone and how it was currently being used. Growth hormone was one of the disaster areas of the early Eighties. Athletes started using it when they discovered its anabolic qualities, but the drug was obtained only by abstraction from the pituitary glands of dead people. The true horror of this was brought home when the American FDA removed all natural growth hormone from the US market because it had been implicated in instances of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The manufacture of synthetic growth hormone brought the product back into use by athletes, although it did have a number of side-effects. These included a condition called acromegaly, which involves elongation of the feet, hands, forehead and the jawbone. It was also noticed, around this time, that a number of athletes were having braces fitted to their teeth, a little unusual for men in their late twenties.

The psychological effect this had on opponents was considerable. Indeed, one discuss thrower was reputed to have had a brace fitted simply to scare the pants off the opposition, although he never took anything stronger than tea.

**A**NYWAY, even the braces have been left behind with the latest in the know of the drug. It is known as insulin-like growth hormone and has been synthesised to exclude all the side-effects. It is, he told me, safe, undetectable and very effective, the perfect performance-enhancing drug.

Only there was one problem. When everybody used steroids, it was democratic because everyone could afford them. Insulin-like growth hormone costs about £10,000 for one month's supply.

My doctor friend rang back later that day and asked me to tell her everything I knew about steroids, which were about to be made illegal. I drew breath. "Well," I said, "I'm getting a little behind on this Olympic handbook I'm doing. Let me give you the number of someone else."

*'I have got a lot of decisions to make — but a decision hasn't been made yet'*

David Lacey, page 14

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### The Chelsea line



**Matthew Harding**  
Vice-chairman  
"We want Glenn to be part of the future at Chelsea. He has got a big job to finish off. After all, if he does take the England job he can't put Ruud Gullit in the side or Dan Petrescu — and Klinsmann up front"

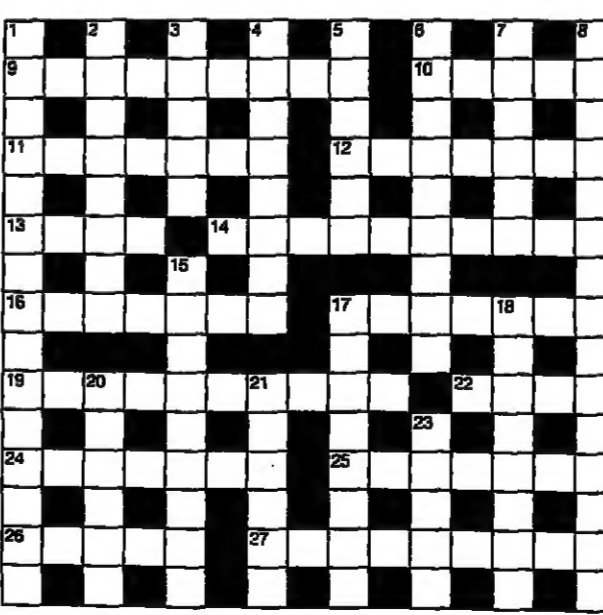


**Ken Bates**  
Chairman  
"Anarchy rules these days. I'm very disappointed with the FA. It's very bad behaviour on their part. If they had Glenn on their shortlist, they should have approached him a month or so ago."

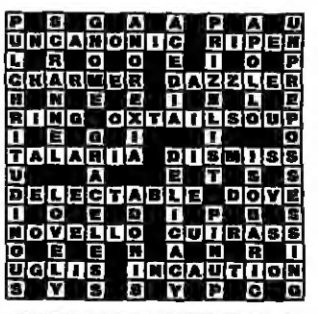
**It has neither the Tarantino film's sense of post-modern moral blankness nor the super-clever intricacy of the Bryan Singer film. But it works.**  
Derek Malcolm

### Guardian Crossword No 20,642

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 9 Make changes to it again and there'll be trouble (9)
  - 10 Composer with capacity for drive (5)
  - 11 Repeat treat that is organised (7)
  - 12 Just in the saddle with girls adjusted (7)
  - 13 Either way, it's high time (4)
  - 14 Side line for the artist? (10)
  - 16 Bounty is a big ship (7)
  - 17 An enthusiast to get on and flourish (7)
  - 19 Work on site can cause obstruction (10)
  - 22 Quite a lot of transferable stock? (4)
  - 24 A plant holder? (7)
  - 25 Composer is put back in iron for correction (7)
  - 26 After a drink Jack went back to the dance (5)
- Down**
- 1 Millions may be involved in this gamble on a race (8,7)
  - 2 Players' entrance at the football ground? (4,4)
  - 3 Commonplace restriction on a learner (5)
  - 4 I'm upset over a succession of wretched experiences (8)
  - 5 What is needed is no huge change (6)
  - 6 Upsets open containers (9)
  - 7 Shock for king in battle (5)
  - 8 Strike teacher, get punishment and feature in the newspaper (3,3,9)
  - 15 It provides blanket coverage — for a dorm feast? (8)
  - 17 Prosper and show off (8)
  - 18 Cinema developed in the States (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,642

- 20 Criticise a mother in straw hat (6)  
21 Fuss about the French in Spain (6)  
23 Row about South Carolina film award (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 435 228. Calls cost 50p per min, cheap rate, 48p per min at all other times. Service supplied by JVS

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.